FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 MARCH 1985

Israeli-Egyptian Contacts, PLO Comment

After talks with the Egyptian prime minister in Cairo on 28 February, the director general of Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office described President Husni Mubarak's initiative as a "positive breakthrough" in the peace process, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal subsequently returned to Israel with a message from Mubarak to Peres, announcing that his talks with the Egyptians were "fruitful and friendly," according to the radio. Sources in Egypt cited by *MA'ARIV* linked Shahal's visit to a possible "imminent" summit meeting between Peres and Mubarak.

Meanwhile, Alignment and Likud ministers reacted differently to Mubarak's initiative. While Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told Jerusalem radio that Israel should announce its agreement to Mubarak's proposal, provided that the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation does not include the PLO, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi described the initiative as a "trap" and warned that the latest contacts with Egypt are "dangerous," according to the radio. In a statement broadcast by IDF radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stressed that he does not regard Egypt's ideas as a contribution to peace but rather as an obvious attempt to induce the United States to hold official contacts with the PLO.

For Egypt's part, President Mubarak said in an interview reported by MENA that he will provide details of his proposal for joint Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian talks during his forthcoming visit to Washington. Reporting on the details of Mubarak's initiative, as conveyed to Israel by Mubarak's adviser Usamah al-Baz, the Israeli paper *'AL HAMISHMAR* said it would allow both Israel and the PLO to veto the composition of the Palestinian representation in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

However, a PLO official statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio affirmed that the "correct" framework for finding a just solution to the Palestinian problem is an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO. PLO officials Khalil al-Wazir and Muhammad Milhim openly rejected Mubarak's initiative in statements reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Al-Wazir announced that the PLO "categorically and completely" rejects the Egyptian proposals, and Milhim emphasized that the PLO-Jordanian agreement is the "minimum" that is acceptable to the PLO. Moreover, the PLO is seeking amendments to the PLO-Jordanian agreement, according to a PLO spokesman cited by Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH*. The amendments call for a unified Arab delegation to any peace conference instead of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and for Palestinian self-determination immediately after an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Assassination of Iraqi Diplomat

Unidentified gunmen assassinated an Iraqi diplomat and his son at their residence in Kuwait on the night of 28 February, INA announced. The Iraqi Foreign Ministry denounced the "cowardly" crime and urged the Kuwaiti authorities to take swift measures to apprehend the killers, according to the agency.

Shooting of Former Libyan Diplomat

A former Libyan ambassador to Austria was hospitalized with serious injuries after being shot by a gunman near his Vienna home, ORF Teletext reported. The ambassador is considered to be an opponent of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime following his fall from favor 5 years ago.

PDRY Leader's Tour

In a cable to President Hafiz al-Asad, broadcast by Damascus radio, PDRY chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad noted that his visit to Syria provided an opportunity to exchange views on Arab developments, a subject on which "our opinions were identical." The PDRY leader subsequently arrived in Libya where he was received by Col al-Qadhdhafi, according to Voice of Greater Arab Homeland Radio.

Algeria

President Chadli Bendjedid, in a speech broadcast by Algiers radio, confirmed that Algeria and Morocco recently held "unannounced" contacts on the Western Sahara problem. He said Algeria will attend a Maghreb summit meeting "provided the Saharans attend," adding that Algeria will not commit itself to such a meeting "while there is still a Saharan problem" and that "there will not be an Arab Maghreb without the participation of the Saharans." As for the wider Arab world, Bendjedid stressed that Algeria does not believe in "buffoonery and oneupmanship" and he said it will continue efforts to narrow the differences between Syria and the PLO.

Lebanon

Minister of State Nabih Birri has reached an understanding with Prime Minister Rashid Karami that the cabinet will begin discussion of political reforms in "open and successive" meetings, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. In another development, Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf disclosed that Birri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt have agreed to close down all party offices at Beirut Airport and remove "political immunity" for all offenders, according to Beirut radio. The authorities also intend to fence in the airport and reinforce the Army units in the area, Skaf noted.

Iran

Request for UN Team — A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IRNA urged the United Nations to send its POW inspection team back to Iran and Iraq for further investigations into a number of matters including the fate of Iranian MIA's.

Relations With PRC — At a meeting with visiting PRC State Councillor Zhang Jingfu, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that "rapid steps" will be taken to expand bilateral relations, IRNA reported. He warned the Chinese visitor that the United States is trying to exploit the PRC's huge internal market to sell "trashy" goods.

Bangladesh

In a speech to the nation on 1 March, Chief Martial Law Administrator Hussain Mohammad Ershad postponed the 6 April elections and scheduled a 21 March referendum to get the "verdict of the people" on whether he should stay in power, Dhaka radio reported. A boycott of the elections by opposition parties was cited as the main reason for the move.

Pakistan

Reporting on the 28 February elections for four Provincial Assemblies, Karachi radio spoke of "peaceful and orderly polling" in all major cities and towns with a higher turnout than in the National Assembly elections on 25 February. Nevertheless, 10 people were killed in violent incidents during the elections, according to Delhi radio, and over 100 others were arrested for fraudulent voting or for advocating a boycott of the poll.

In another development, Karachi radio announced President Ziaul Haq's decision to dissolve the Federal Advisory Council established by the interim constitution of 1981.

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Internal Affairs Ministry Holds Seminar on Law

LD280005 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 27 Feb 85

[Text] A seminar on the enforced draft laws on the strengthening of discipline, prevention of crimes and violation of laws in the units and companies of the DRA Ministry of Internal Affairs, opened this morning in the conference hall of the City Sarandoy Command.

The seminar was opened by the general head of political affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and then Hashmat Kyhani, the DRA special revolutionary prosecutor, spoke about counterrevolutionary crimes and their definition in the Criminal Code of Afghanistan and in the Law on Crimes and Punishments Against War Preparedness in the DRA. He said:

As the fundamental nature of the DRA sentencing policy is humane, noble and revolutionary, on the same level our sentencing policy against the rebels and those criminals who have taken sides against the homeland, people and revolution, is decisive, clear, fearless and invincible, and will remain solid.

The BIA correspondent reports that the chief judge of the Armed Forces' Central Court and Sarandoy prosecutor then spoke about full law enforcement in the decisive struggle to prevent the commission of crimes and violations-stemming from nonobservance of discipline and order.

This seminar was attended by the deputy ministers, generals, heads of departments and general directors of the departments and the minister of internal affairs; commanders, political heads of the central units and sarandoy commands of the central zone; political heads and deputy heads of the security and traffic wards.

The deputy security minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs assessed the seminar's work and drew the attention of those attending to the implementation of the provisions of laws in order to strengthen military discipline and order.

Uzbek, Turkmen Meeting States Loyalty to Regime

LD282321 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] At a tribal gathering held in the auditorium of Mazar-e Sharif Petroleum and Gas Plant, 500 representatives of the Uzbek and Turkmen nationalities of Balkh Province expressed their resolute preparedness for the implementation of the progressive programs of the party and revolutionary government.

At this tribal gathering, Hashmatollah, one of the ringleaders of the counterrevolutionary bands who recently joined the people in Balkh Province and availed himself of the revolutionary council's general amnesty decree, exposed the black faces of the uncultured and non-Muslim rebels, and asked those attending the gathering to undertake broad and all-around propaganda work and through tribal gatherings detach those who have fallen prey to the propaganda of the enemy from the ranks of the counterrevolutionaries and put them in the defense of the homeland, people, and revolution.

After reading out the message of the National Fatherland Front Provincial Council, Balkh Province, the gathering's resolution was read out by Muhammad Amin, of Turkmen nationality. It was approved unanimously. This resolution says in part:

We, the participants of this tribal gathering, pledge to cooperate resolutely for the implementation of the objectives and progressive aspirations of the party and revolutionary government; and by forming self-defense groups we will take active part in restoring security in Shur Tappeh, Qal'eh-ye Dadar, Balkh, Chemtal, Chahar Bulaq and Nahr-e Shahi Districts; and also to maintain security along the highway between (Harirud) and Mazar-e Sharif, as well as in government projects and economic enterprises. We will accomplish our patriotic part in the progress of the country's national economy and progress of national and handicraft industries including the carpet-weaving industry.

Clandestine Reports Government-Rebel Clashes

LD281504 (Clandestine) Voice of Afghanistan in Pashto 1130 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] By shedding its blood and making uncountable sacrifices, our mujahid nation once again showed that despite the fact that the lunatic oppressive armies of falsehood are equipped with modern weapons of the atomic age and are armed to the teeth, all this power of falsehood cannot stand up for even a single day against the power of faith of the righteous and Islamic movement.

Reports reaching us state that, despite their all savagery and crime, the imposter armies of the Red colonialism are facing complete defeat.

Kabul: According to reports arriving from Kabul city, on the evening of 27 January a severe clash took place between the fighters of the path of truth and Soviet-servant forces in the (Washir Akbar Khan Mena) and Sharanah areas as a result of which a passenger truck of the enemy forces was burned by (?spit-fire). A number of its passengers were eliminated and another eight of these homeland-sellers were killed during the fight. The report adds that on the same evening the heroic mujahidin attacked the posts of the Soviet occupiers and the servant forces in (Washir Akbar Khan Mena) with missiles. As a result of this attack heavy losses were inflicted on the occupier enemy.

Jowzjan: Our correspondent from the Aqchah District, Jowzjan Province, reports that the faithful mujahidin launched an attack on 21 January on an enemy military convoy near this district. Three tanks of the aggressive enemy were burned and nine soldiers of the Red Guard were killed. Reports of severe clashes from other parts of this province have also reached us.

Nangarhar: According to a report by our correspondent from Nangarhar Province, an enemy post in the Towr Kham area was attacked by the faithful mujahidin. The post was destroyed and five soldiers of the occupying Red Guard were killed.

Parwan: According to reports from the Salang area, Parwan Province, recently a Soviet forces' APC was burned by the faithful mujahidin and four Soviet soldiers were killed.

LE MONDE Interviews Mujahidin Leader Abdul Haq

PM271635 Paris LE MONDE in French 26 Feb 85 p 6

[Interview with Abdul Haq, leader in the Hezb-e Eslami movement in the Kabul region, by Olivier Roy in France — date not given]

[Text] While on a visit to France for the symbolic twinning of the city of Paghman, near Kabul, with Antony, Major Abdul Haq, 27 years old and the main resistance leader in the Kabul region, agreed to answer our questions.

[Roy] Are the reports on the intensification of your operations in Kabul accurate?

[Haq] For 3 years we have succeeded in carrying out an increasing number of more accurate limited operations inside the capital's defense perimeter. In fact Kabul is a priority target for us: It is the seat of government and it is also there that our operations have the greatest psychological impact.

Faced with the growing efficacy of our operations, the Soviets adopted a new strategy in 1984: Instead of merely defending their positions they decided to destroy the peripheral zone, in other words the belt of villages surrounding the capital. In fact, this belt of villages is our logistical base, and it is from them that we launch our operations. They are therefore pressing the population around Kabul to emigrate either to Pakistan or to Kabul itself, where it is easier to control. To achieve this they are systematically destroying crops and whole villages and massacring civilians to instill terror. For instance the villages of Tezin, (Shiwaki), Lalandar, and Deh Sabz have been wiped off the map.

[Roy] In 1984 the Soviets markedly stepped up their own operations. In view of this escalation, how do you explain the strengthening of the resistance in Kabul.

[Haq] There are three reasons for it. First our arms have improved markedly; we now have 107mm rockets with a longer range than those we had previously. Second, the civilian population's disappearance from the battlefield has given us a free hand: In the past we deliberately limited our operations to avoid reprisals; there is now nobody on whom the Soviets can inflict blind reprisals. Finally, coordination between the resistance groups and their respective internal organizations has improved considerably.

[Roy] How many men are involved in the operations you stage?

[Haq] It depends on the objective, the strategy, and the balance of forces. They range from attacks carried out by one individual to large-scale operations involving around 1,000 fighters. Generally our mobile groups comprise several dozen fighters.

[Roy] How many men do you lose?

[Haq] Civilian losses increased markedly in 1984, but it is difficult to give accurate figures. On the other hand our "military" losses are much lower than the Soviets' losses.

[Roy] Have you noticed great efficacy in the Soviet expeditionary corps' fighting?

[Haq] There are two kinds of Soviet soldier: the ordinary draftee and the commandos. The former have no morale; they are badly trained and do not know how to fight in this type of war. The commandos, on the other hand, fight well; they are obviously trained and motivated. They operate on foot and in small groups, but never less than around 40 men.

[Roy] Can you give us your view on the political situation in the Afghan resistance?

[Haq] People in the West always talk about the division of the resistance; but in your democratic societies there is also a multiplicity of political parties, which often oppose each other very violently. Since most of the Afghan population are in the resistance it is natural that there should be great political diversity. The diversity of political parties is evidence of democracy even if military efficiency might lose by it. The difference between our society and your societies lies in two things: Since we are armed, local disagreements easily turn into score-settling; in addition the KGB stirs up these conflicts to weaken the resistance from within. This has been its main strategy for the past 2 years.

However, as you have seen on the spot, coordination between the commanders inside the country is making progress. In my region I regard the situation this year as fully satisfactory.

[Roy] What is the position on the union of the parties in Peshawar?

[Haq] I discussed this with Muhammad Yunis Khalis [leader of the Hezb-e Eslami movement to which Mr Abdul Haq belongs] before my departure. The mistake was the desire to create a major alliance at any price. Our disagreements are too strong, and an alliance including everybody would be unnatural. We must proceed in stages. This is what we must do now. We are therefore proposing to negotiate a joint platform on fundamental questions first. These questions relate essentially to problems of political strategy and not ideology: Should we or should we not accept the principle of negotiations with the Soviets? Is King Zahir acceptable or not? What policy should we have toward the Arab countries and the West? When we have established a common platform on these fundamental questions, we will have to chose a single spokesman; it does not matter whether he comes from inside or outside the parties, the main thing is that this spokesman should feel bound by the common platform and not pursue a personal policy, which we have seen all too often in the past. We should therefore not call for a merger of all parties but create a joint commission that would settle local conflicts. Another essential task is to set up a common education system, both in the refugee camps and inside the country. This is a program, it is our program, but it has not yet been implemented.

[Roy] Yunis Khalis, the chairman of your party, is himself a cleric who caused a scandal by publicly condemning the Arab countries, which were accused of maintaining the divisions in the Afghan resistance by reserving their aid for stooges who do not represent either political parties or internal commanders. Was that merely an "outburst?"

[Haq] Not at all. Muhammad Khalis constantly condemns the Arab countries' ignorance of the real situation inside Afghanistan and the hypocrisy of their policy toward the parties in Peshawar. I fully support his statements. The Arab countries are Muslim: this makes their duties and responsibilities all the greater.

[Roy] What is your party's policy toward the other parties in Peshawar?

[Haq] We keep an even balance between all the other groups inside and outside the country, and we hope that our plan for gradual union will be accepted by the other groups, because it is the only realistic way.

DRA, Nicaragua Subject to U.S. 'Expansionism'

LD010706 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Kabul, February 28, BAKHTAR: Two independent nonaligned countries — Afghanistan, Nicaragua — which are separated by many thousand kilometres have become subject to U.S. expansionism. Both countries are facing undeclared wars which CIA-led and paid mercenaries are waging for the USA from the territories of neighboring countries.

In the spring of 1981, President Ronald Reagan openly pledged U.S. support for the bands of terrorists making inroads into the DRA and in the autumn of 1982 he made a similar statement in respect of the contras who are seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Reagan described both the Afghan counter-revolutionaries and the contras as freedom-fighters.

Since then hundreds of millions of dollars have been set aside each year for the undeclared wars conducted by methods of state-sponsored terrorism which the USA has raised to the rank of state policy. Hundreds of millions of [words indistinct] is the cost of the damage which has been inflicted on both countries, not to mention the loss of human life.

According to the latest reports, the USA is preparing a direct military intervention in Nicaragua in order to seize the country, remove the legally elected government, and eliminate the gains of the Sandinista revolution.

Reagan has described as illegitimate the revolutionary Government of Afghanistan, although it has been recognised by more than 80 countries and has the support of the majority of Afghans. According to a cynical admission by U.S. officials, the USA is prepared to fight against it "to the last Afghan". The DRA is being accused of having resorted, at a difficult juncture, to Soviet help, something that foiled the imperialists' plans to divide and enslave Afghanistan. The Nicaraguan Government has been also accused of maintaining friendly relations with Cuba and the USSR but, as the saying goes, Allah gives us our neighbours, but we choose friends ourselves.

Afghanistan and Nicaragua are in different hemispheres. Both revolutionary nations have different histories, traditions, and religions, but they are united by the main thing, their desire for freedom and independence. And the right to shape their life as they wish. Rather than to the instructions from the United States, its allies, and mercenaries. The peoples of Afghanistan and Nicaragua have fought and will continue to fight for this right and for the ideals of the the April and the Sandinista Revolutions.

Gandhi on Determination To Resolve Punjab 'Tangle'
BK010930 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has reiterated his government's determination to resolve the Punjab tangle and said that he wanted the Akalis to know that he had an open mind on this issue. Addressing public meetings at Sri Ganganagar, Suratgarh, and Fatehpur in Rajasthan today, Mr Gandhi urged the Akalis to seriously ponder over the conditions laid down by him for resumption of talks. He said any negotiation will have to be within the framework of the Constitution. He asked the Akalis not to take any step which might jeopardize the unity and integrity of the country. Mr Gandhi assured the Sikhs that all efforts would be made to redress their grievances.

Referring to the various measures initiated by the government, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the new educational policy intended to remove the defects in the present system will be implemented from next year.

Congress-I Leader on Sikh Broadcasts in Europe
BK281618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Srikant Verma, has said his party takes a serious view of the false radio propaganda started by the supporters of the so called Khalistan movement in London from a station in Europe. He told newsmen in New Delhi today that the broadcasts have been inspired by some opposition leaders. Mr Verma reiterated that Congress-I had never dealt with the integrity and patriotism of the Sikhs. Opposition allegations against his party in this regard are baseless, he said.

Magazine Cited on Soviet Involvement in Spy Case
HK281428 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 28 (AFP) — Two Soviet nationals have been expelled from India in connection with the spying case bared here last month, a right-wing weekly reported today. Neither the Soviet Embassy here nor the Indian Foreign Ministry would confirm the report.

In a long article in *THE WEEK* magazine, entitled "Red Spies in India," the two Soviets were identified as Sergey Tsagankov and S. Komarov. The weekly said the two men expelled were not diplomats but gave no further details about them.

THE WEEK said that B.K. Aggarwal, one of the businessmen arrested since Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi disclosed the spying affair to Parliament on January 18, had confessed to having contacts with a dozen Delhi-based Soviet officals including the two.

Fourteen government officials and three businessmen have been arrested in connection with the case. Indian press reports have suggested that the Soviet secret service, the KGB, was involved in the spy ring, along with Polish and East German diplomats. However the only foreign diplomat whose recall from India has been officially announced is the French deputy military attache, Colonel Alain Bolley.

Electioneering Ends in Four States 28 Feb
BK281643 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Electioneering ended this evening in 939 constituencies in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, which go to the polls on Saturday in the first phase of the assembly elections; 199 of these constituencies are in Bihar, 157 in Maharashtra, 263 in Uttar Pradesh, and 320 in Madhya Pradesh. About 12 crore electorate will chose their representatives from among 9,900 candidates. Polling will be completed in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Campaigning for the remaining 410 constituencies in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and for the 1,170 constituencies in 7 states and the union territory of Pondicherry will end on Sunday.

Election has been countermanded in 10 constituencies — 3 each in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, 2 in Orissa, and 1 each in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, in Bihar, elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure a free and fair poll and to prevent attempts of violence and booth capturing. The state chief secretary, Mr K.K. Srivastav, told newsmen in Patna that the weaker sections will be given full protection to enable them to cast their votes. He said concrete steps have been taken to prevent violence and intimidation of voters. As a precautionary measure, carrying of firearms and lethal weapons on the polling day has been banned.

The election commission has reaffirmed that the poll schedule in any of the states, including Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, will not be disturbed. The deputy election commissioner, Mr Ramakrishnan, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the chief electoral officers of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have not expressed difficulty in holding elections in view of the antireservation agitation by the students.

Delhi on Preelection Violence in Bihar
BK010922 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] In Bihar, assembly election in the Nalanda constituency has been countermanded following the murder of an independent candidate, King [as heard] Mahendra Prasad, early this morning. According to UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA], Nalanda is the fourth constituency in Bihar where election has been countermanded. The other three being Hatiya, Masaudi, and Bokaro. Mr Mahendra Prasad was shot dead early this morning at his residence in Rajgir.

Meanwhile, the Bihar Pradesh Congress-I president, Mr Bindeshwari Dubey, has been admitted to Patna Medical College Hospital following a road accident. The accident occurred in Shahpur constituency of Bhojpur District yesterday. Mr Dubey is contesting election from Shahpur constituency.

In Andhra Pradesh, Mr (Palakurichi Kotaiah), the Democratic Telugu Desam Party candidate from the Kaval constituency in Nellore District, was stabbed to death in the early hours of this morning at Kavali. According to the police, personal rivalry led to the killing. The assailant is absconding. Senior police officials of the district have rushed to Kavali. The state election office in Hyderabad is waiting for a report on the incident. It will then decide on countermanding the poll.

1 Killed, 2 Buses Burned in Gujarat 27 Feb

BK281619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Gujarat remained peaceful today. However, in two incidents last night, two state transport buses were set on fire by the agitating students in Nadiad town of Kheda District. One young man was burnt to death while three others received injuries. The injured have been admitted to hospital.

Bangladesh Charge of Blocking Enclave Denied

BK281614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] New Delhi has denied the allegation that the border security force personnel have sealed the Bangladesh enclave of Dahagram and Angarpota. The allegation was made by a section of Bangladesh press saying that the inhabitants of the enclaves were thrown into virtual captivity. The official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the charge was looked into and was found that there was no sealing of the enclaves. He said the reports were entirely baseless.

Delhi Reports 10 Killed in Pakistan Election

BK010256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] In Pakistan, 10 people were killed in various incidents of violence during the provincial assembly elections yesterday. More than 100 people were arrested following cases of bogus voting in the provinces of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan and the Northwest Frontier Province. Thirty five opposition leaders and workers were taken into custody for propagating the boycott of poll.

Meanwhile, President Ziaul Haq has dissolved the Federal Advisory Council —Majlis-I-Shoora —following elections to the National Assembly. The Majlis was established in 1981 to help the government in carrying out national duties. During its 4 years of life it held 10 sessions and enjoyed only advisory status.

Ziaul Haq Dissolves Federal Advisory Council

BK010112 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0100 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] The president has dissolved the Federal Advisory Council. An official statement says that this will be effective from today. The Punjab governor has also dissolved the provincial cabinet and provincial council, effective from 28 February. The Sind governor has dissolved the Sind cabinet and provincial council. This will be effective before 1200 today. An official statement in Karachi says, however, that Justice Ghaush Ali Shah will remain in office until further arrangements are made.

Additional Duties Given to Cabinet Ministers

BK281612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] The president has entrusted various members of the federal Cabinet with additional portfolios which were earlier held by the federal ministers and ministers of state who resigned on the 26th of this month. Details of the additional portfolios are as follows:

Religious and Minorities Affairs....Dr Mohammad Afzal

Water and Power.....Ghulam Ishaq Khan

Labor, Manpower, Housing and Works, and Overseas Pakistanis Affairs.....Vice Admiral Mohammad Fazil Janjua

Local Government, Rural Development, Culture and Tourism....Lieutenant General Jamal Said Mian

Health, Higher Education, Social Welfare and Industries.....Dr Mahbubul Haq

Railways and Communications.....Lieutenant General Said Qadir

The portfolios of defense, information and broadcasting, justice, and parliamentary affairs will remain with the president.

Provincial Elections Held; 1 Candidate Killed

BK281632 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Polling for the elections of all the four provincial assemblies was held today. Today's elections and the National Assembly elections on Monday complete the two important stages of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's program which was announced by him on 12 August 1983 and which is aimed at establishing an Islamic democracy after ending the martial law in the country. A total number of 3,570 candidates ran in the elections for 460 Muslim seats of the four provincial assemblies. There were 196 candidates in the running for 5 non-Muslim seats. A spokesman of the provincial election commissioner said in Karachi that in accordance with the regulations, polling was not held at constituency No. 64 (Gaba) due to death of a candidate. According to a report the name of the candidate was Ahmad Khan and he was fatally attacked by nearly 20 armed men at Khairpur Nathan Shah last night. However, polling for the minorities was held in that constituency.

Provincial Poll Statistics

BK010335 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Provisional results of polling in 366 [out of 460] constituencies of four provincial assemblies have been received so far. These provisional results have been announced in special provincial bulletins of Radio Pakistan. They include 170 from Punjab, 92 from Sind, 75 from Northwest Frontier Province and 29 from Baluchistan. The provisional results of provincial assemblies announced so far show that voting in the provincial assemblies was even heavier than in the national assembly elections. In 137 of the constituencies in Punjab for which provisional results have been announced so far, the percentage of votes cast is 62.6 percent. The percentage of votes cast in 90 constituencies of Sind is 51.11 percent. In Northwest Frontier Province, the percentage of votes cast in 59 of the constituencies where results have been announced so far is 48.07, while in Baluchistan it is 48.05 in 27 of the constituencies where results have been announced.

Polling Suspended in Sind

BK011113 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Excerpts] With the exception of one seat each in the Punjab and the NWFP, provisional results in respect of all the 460 seats of the four provincial assemblies have now been completed. However, in Sind constituency (?of) Dadu-5, polling was suspended following the murder of one of the candidates. There was only one candidate each in five constituencies in Sind, five in Baluchistan, and two in the Punjab. The official compilation and final consolidation of results of the National Assembly polls held on Monday last have been started by the returning officers all over the country in the presence of the candidates or their agents. A spokesman of the Election Commission told ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today the process will be completed within 3 days. He said similar compilation of the provincial assemblies' results will also begin within 2 days and will be completed by the 5th of this month. He said the commission will announce official results on the basis of this [words indistinct].

Soviet Bombing in Afghanistan Reportedly Kills 100

BK011028 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] According to agency reports, Soviet fighter planes indiscriminately bombed different areas of Paghman Valley, killing over 100 civilians and Afghan mujahidin in the 3d week of last month.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Postpones Elections, Orders Referendum

BK011441 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1320 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Address to the nation given live by Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on 1 March — live]

[Text] My dear countrymen, assalamo alaikum [peace be upon you]. I appeared before you on February 20 last on the eve of great Shaheed [martyrs] Day with a view to conveying to you some matters of vital importance. On that day, I made a fervent appeal to all concerned to participate in the scheduled parliamentary elections for smooth transition to democracy. It may be mentioned here that I myself had started taking steps since 1983 to fulfill the assurance I gave to the nation immediately after I took over the responsibility of running the state of affairs that democracy will be established within a period of 2 to 3 years.

As a result, elections to the Union Parishads [councils] and Pourasabha [municipalities] were held all over the country. At a later stage, schedule for holding the Upazila [subdistrict] Perishad chairmen elections was announced to make the Upazila Parishads people's representative institutions. Although it was a nonparty election, some political alliances and parties raised controversies in this regard. The elections were postponed showing respect to their opinions.

The constitution formulated in 1972 and protected and followed by the elected parliament till 1982 with various amendments was suspended instead of abrogating it after the promulgation of martial law. Previously, three elections including two presidential and one parliamentary were held in accordance with this constitution. These elections were participated in by almost all the political parties including the major ones.

I announced the holding of presidential polls first as per the provision of the suspended constitution for transition to democracy from martial law administration. But some political parties expressed their unwillingness to participate in the elections. I exchanged views with them through formal dialogue and discussions. They put forward some suggestions and recommendations for holding free, fair, and impartial elections and requested me for taking [as heard] up some steps to create atmosphere to that end. Their demands, suggestions, recommendations, and requests were reviewed in right earnest and a good number of steps were taken to make their participation in the elections easy.

Under these circumstances, presidential election was postponed and schedules for holding the presidential and parliamentary elections on the same day on May 27, 1984 were announced. Furthermore, many convicted persons were freed as per their requests. But is is a matter of regret that, this time also, they expressed their unwillingness to partipate in the polls. Our sole objective was to establish an elected government and parliament with a view to transition to democracy by ending martial law. On one hand, the political parties have been raising slogans for elections and democratic government and parliament, and at the same time, expressing their unwillingness to take part in the elections and repeatedly announcing anti-election programs. This is nothing but their self-contradiction. This time also, presidential and parliamentary elections were postponed showing utmost restraint and patience to ensure participation by all in the elections.

The political parties demanded parliamentary elections first. Along with this some of them suggested changes in the outline, structure and character of the government and the parliament as envisaged in the suspended constitution through promulgation of martial law orders or announcements.

I have said a number of times before that I am not willing to make any change regarding the parliament, form of government and in other basis issues in the suspended constitution [as heard]. The people had expressed their verdict time and again on these issues through referendum and general elections as per the provisions of the suspended constitution. It is only the people who can bring any amendment and change in the clauses and provisions of the suspended constitution through referendum and elections.

Once again showing respect to the opinions of different political parties and alliances, schedule for holding only the parliamentary elections on 8 December 1984 was announced. We hoped that they would help lead the country to the path of transition to democracy by taking part in the parliamentary polls. But it is a matter of regret that despite the announcement of holding the parliamentary polls as per their suggestion they once again announced that they would refrain from participating in the elections. This election was also postponed.

They continued their efforts to create tension and indiscipline by formulating 5-points, 33-points, and 6 and 7's of points. Accommodating their demands and points and in the interest of holding a proper, free, and fair election, my Cabinet was dissolved and the ministers belonging to any political party were relieved of their responsibilities. The posts of district, subzonal martial law administrators, who were mainly engaged in the development activity and maintenance of law and order, were abolished. Summary martial law courts and tribunals and special martial law courts were abolished. In some cases the writ jurisdiction of the supreme court was revived. Many convicted persons were set free and warrants of arrest and cases against many were also withdrawn. These steps were taken with a view to accommodating their demands and suggestions and to create atmosphere as they defined.

I have made announcements time and again that I myself and my government will remain completely neutral and nonpartisan in the forthcoming polls in the interest of holding a free and fair election. It was expected that they would come forward in the task of establishing an elected representative of parliament and government through elections, that they would participate in 6 April parliamentary elections and that they would help and cooperate in materializing the plans and programs announcement by the government for transition to democracy. But it is sad and a matter of deep regret that despite the hope that was generated in us and among the people about their participation in the elections, they once again expressed their reluctance to take part in the polls.

Under these circumstances the Election Commission had postponed the date of filing of nomination papers for candidates scheduled for 24 February. It was expected that good sense will dawn on the political parties and alliances who have been opposing elections. But instead of showing good sense, they had continued their antielection activities and programs.

As political parties and leaders they have miserably failed in discharging their duties and responsibilities. Through their activities they have been continuing to deprive the people from an elected parliament and government. In the meantime, following relaxation in the application of martial law, abolition of the posts of martial law administrators at different levels and release of convicted and detained political persons and workers by creating atmospheres as defined by the political parties, the law and order situation had deteriorated. Such situation is not desirable. The persons responsible for creation of this kind of situation cannot be allowed to continue with this type of activity.

My dear countrymen, you are aware what sincere and tireless efforts we have made to fulfill my assurances for establishment of democracy. I have made announcements in unequivocal terms time and again for holding impartial and fair elections and necessary steps were also taken in this regard. You also expressed your spontaneous and total support toward the elections. Your interest in election encouraged me. But negative attitude toward election has become an ingrained part in a section of the political parties. Though they are shedding crocodile tears in public for democracy, they are not only showing their disinterest toward elections continuously on various illogical pretext but also trying to create indiscipline and chaos in the public life with the motive of foiling the elections.

You are observing the activities of those political parties and their leaders for last 2 years. They have not yet given testimony to their willingness to establish democracy in a peaceful and disciplined manner, rather their activities had helped create an atmosphere of uncertainty and indiscipline in the national life. Token strikes, hartals [strikes], abstention from work and interrupting production, killings, hijacking, use of firearms in different educational institutions, setting on fire the student halls, violence, oppression on the peaceloving public by antisocial elements under the cover of being students, clashes between the students and the people in Dhaka city and attacks on thana [police station] and police outposts, and looting of arms from there are the burning examples in this respect. As a result, in its natural consequence, public life has become miserable.

Independence and sovereignty of the country has been achieved through a bloody armed struggle of the people of all walks of life. They want a self-reliant country free from exploitation and corruption and also reflection of their views, their participation in the administration of the state and building up of the country. Despite our sincere and ceaseless efforts elections for reflection of people's views could not be held. My government, therefore, at last has decided to seek people's verdict directly. You are aware that this is a recognized, established and popular procedure in politics and history for ascertaining people's views. According to our suspended constitution as well, verdict of the people expressed through this method is their ultimate decision.

My dear countrymen, today I am declaring that verdict of the people will be sought throughout the country on 21 March. You will give your verdict as to whether you have confidence in my policies and programs as well as in continuation of my responsibilities as the president of the country till the holding of elections under the suspended constitution.

The present government, which is devoted to and working for the welfare of the people, has framed and introduced many people-oriented reformative programs during the last 3 years. The people have already started deriving benefits of the programs. Today the people are eager for and expectant of peace, discipline, stability, and continued development activities in the country. For transition to democracy also, favorable situation and atmosphere is essential. Therefore, in the greater interest of the country offices of the zonal, subzonal, and district martial law administrators and summary martial law courts and special martial law courts are revived from now onward until further orders. Also, from this moment onward, all political activities are banned in the country. The martial provisions will now on be applied firmly in this regard.

No government, if it is true to its responsibilities and dutifulness to the interest of the people, can remain indifferent to the prevailing situation. Our patriotic Armed Forces are pride of the nation and your integral part. They are engaged in services and welfare of the people and the country.

I want to mention in this context that relaxation or withdrawal of martial law will depend on the creation of necessary satisfactory atmosphere and situation. I want to affirm once again that we are determined to switch over to democracy through holding of elections. But we shall expect cooperation, support and active participation of all concerned in this noble task. Therefore, I and my government are always available for discussions and consultations with a view to arriving at a consensus and understanding.

My dear countrymen, I convey my sincere thanks to you for your spontaneous participation in materializing my programs during the last 3 years and also for the encouragement and support that you have given in our endeavors for transition to democracy. I am fully confident that we shall definitely succeed in our mission for peace, discipline, and transition to democracy and to build a self-reliant, strong, and prosperous new Bangladesh.

I firmly believe you will continue to give your wholehearted cooperation and support identifying yourself totally with the steps and measures taken by me in the overall interest of the country. Insha Allah [God willing] we shall certainly be able to reach our cherished goal. Allah is with us. Khuda Hafiz [goodbye] Bangladesh zindabad [live long].

Political Activities Banned, Curfew Imposed

BK011720 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1709 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] All political and trade union activities, whether indoor or outdoor, including meetings, processions, use of mikes, strikes, and lockouts have been banned with immediate effect. Curfew

will remain in force throughout the country from 1200 midnight [1800 GMT] tonight until 0500 in the morning [2300 GMT] every day until further orders.

Universities Closed Following Student's Death
BK010751 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, all universities have been closed indefinitely. The state radio said the academic atmosphere in the campuses has deteriorated following clashes in which a student leader was killed and nearly 100 were injured.

SRI LANKA

Tamil Refugees in Tamil Nadu Now Total 12,000
BK010307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Tamil refugees in Sri Lanka continue to pour into Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu. Over 1,000 refugees from Sri Lanka arrived in Rameswaram yesterday. It is described as the highest arrival in a single day so far. With this, the number of Tamil refugees has gone up to 12,000 since the influx began on the 4th of last month.

As already reported, the center has assured the Tamil Nadu government of all possible help to the refugees from Sri Lanka. The center has already released advance to the state government to provide relief to the refugees. It is also considering grant of more funds.

Four Security Men Injured in Separatists' Attack
BK011330 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1245 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Official sources have reported that four security men were injured when they repulsed an attack by Tamil separatists on a police station in Killinochchi today. The sources reported the terrorists attacked the police station in Killinochchi at about 0200 this morning [2030 GMT 28 February]. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that joint military-police personnel working in the police station repulsed the attack. Two soldiers and two police personnel were injured. It is not known how many people were injured or killed from among the attackers.

Musavi Speaks on Strength of Islamic Revolution

LD281822 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 29, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Thursday that Israel's humiliating withdrawal from Lebanon was an unprecedented event in the history of the existence of "this cancerous tumor."

It is the strength of the Islamic Revolution that has gone beyond the borders, he said, further adding that the alertness and resistance of the Iranian nation in the battlefronts and other scenes guaranteed the firmness of the Lebanese people and increased awakening among all the oppressed nations, particularly the Muslims.

Today, the prime minister said, the struggle of the Iranian nation against America has become a pattern even in Latin America, as admitted by Reagan himself. "We owe these all to the presence of the people in the scene," he said.

The prime minister who was speaking in a gathering of the people and administrative officials of Faridan, in Esfahan Province, also reiterated the power of the Iranian masses which, he stressed, was greater even than those of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

Musavi said the Islamic Republic was inspired by the people's strength and that "we feel the role of this strength in all our foreign relations." As long as the officials and the people are united, they will be capable of spreading Islamic ideals and convey the message of the Islamic Revolution. This will also keep the system independent, he said.

The big powers are frightened of the Iranian Muslim nation, because they know that this nation is the most aware nation in the world and that they would defend up to the last drop of their blood the rightfulness of what they have realized, the prime minister said.

For this reason, he added, they (the big powers) open special accounts for the Iranian nation and expect a reaction by the Islamic Republic vis-a-vis any decision taken worldwide and particularly in the Middle East.

The superpowers, Musavi pointed out, were one day afraid of "The Islam which we shouted it", and today they fear of the practical effects of the same shouts which have been spread worldwide.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets PRC State Councillor

LD282133 Tehran IRNA in English 2040 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Fen. 28 IRNA — Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Thursday [28 February] that Iran and China together could remove "the cancerous tumors" as well as imperialism's mercenary agents from the region. He also said the two countries should support those oppressed nations which seek independence.

Speaking in a meeting here with the visiting State Councillor of the People's Republic of China Zhang Jingfu, the Majlis speaker also stressed that the two countries should attempt to expand mutual relations in various fields, and expressed the hope that rapid steps would be taken to this end. The speaker also urged the strengthening of the non-aligned, independent and popular forces in the region.

"If we act seriously in this respect," said Rafsanjani, "the problems of other countries in the region too, would be solved."

In another part of his statements, the Majlis speaker said the Chinese leaders know that it is a very important phenomenon in the world's new history to witness an independent country opposing both the superpowers. Therefore, he said, China should join the effort to create further solidarity among the Third World and oppressed nations and also strengthen the status of the Non-aligned Movement.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rafsanjani said American and other big powers did not want an independent China nor an independent Iran. The U.S., he said, has now been tempted to use the one billion strong market of China for the sale of its trashy stuff.

The Majlis speaker also said that friendly relations with the big powers must be established on the condition that they would not keep their presence "in our region", in the Indian Ocean, around China and in other regions.

The Chinese state councillor said Iran and China shared a similar fate and that "our views are very similar to those of the Islamic Republic leaders on international issues." He said also that the Chinese officials commend Iran's political position-takings on the Third World as well as its struggle against Eastern and Western expansionism. "We further praise your successes in providng welfare to your people and in increasing your production level," said Jingfu.

Following the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Jingfu added, the way was paved for establishing cultural, political and economic relations between Iran and China thanks to the efforts of the both countries officials. He said China was trying to consider new ways for the expansion of these ties and that mutual cooperations could strengthen the positions of the two countries in the world.

Heading a politico-economic delegation, the Chinese state councillor arrived here on Tuesday [26 February].

In related news, the Chinese delegation today visited Iran-Khodro (formerly Iran-National) car factory here and inspected its various parts.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Friday Prayers on UN Report

LD011214 Tehran IRNA in English 1204 GMT 1 Mar 85

[Text] Tehran, March 1 IRNA — Iran said today the main objective behind the report on the condition of prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq was to bring pressure on the Islamic Republic to end the war.

The Majlis speaker and Imam Khomeyni's representative in the Supreme Defence Council, Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said the

only way to "penetrate the heart" of the Islamic Republic is by accepting Iraq as the aggressor and putting Iraqi rulers on trial in the same way Nazi leaders were tried after World War II.

He also described the expulsion of the Zionist forces from parts of southern Lebanon as the greatest event in the history of the region in the past ten years, after the Islamic Revoluton in Iran.

"The main issue is that they are trying to create political pressure on us so that we compromise in the war," Rafsanjani said about the U.N. POW report at this week's Friday mass prayers here.

"Their ignorance is in fact that they think that they can make us compromise by such means," he said. "We have been under your (Western) propaganda campaign for six years. Where have you seen us retreat?"

The speaker added "These means are not the way to go about it. If you want to penetrate the heart of the Islamic Republic, you must do it by the way of truth.

"First accept and announce that Saddam and his Ba'th Party are aggressors and then announce that the aggressor must be tried in the same way that Hitler's gang was tried.

"Accept the fact that this is the first step toward us...this is the way, the way towards ending the war."

Rafsanjani said reports that Iran had reached a dead end in the war with Iraq are "lies", and added that the lull in the war fronts is aimed at giving a chance to Iran's enemies to accept her demands.

If Iran's enemies tried to exploit this chance for their own benefit, "then we will do what we must do, and at that time you will all be sorry."

"We will eventually attain our rights," he said.

On the expulsion of the Zionist forces from parts of southern Lebanon, the Majlis speaker said "The epic in Lebanon, after the epic of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, is the most important event in the region in the past ten years because of its impact on the world and the future."

"Muslims in southern Lebanon succeeded for the first time since the creation of Israel, in making the Israeli army withdraw from parts of Lebanese territory in humilitation and with an admission of defeat.

"In the future, this event can be very important in the history of mankind."

He also said "A few deprived and innocent Muslims in the villages and the cities of Lebanon were able to throw the Americans, the French, the British and the Italian (forces) into the sea like wounded dogs. Such an event has never happened under such circumstances in history...

He said the enemies of Muslims in Lebanon were wrong in thinking that they could succeed in their campaign of intimidation against Muslims by bombs and assaults, such as in the Zionist attacks on Muslim villages.

In the past, the resistant political forces in Lebanon were staunch nationalists at best, but today they are Muslims "who sit in a car full of explosive material and drive it against a building blowing the car and themselves into the air."

UN Prison Camp Investigation Termed 'Incomplete'

LD281734 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran, terming as "incomplete" the work of the U.N. team which visited POW camps in Iran and Iraq recently, Thursday asked for the return of the U.N. delegation to both Iran and Iraq "so that the fate of Iranians who are missing in action could be determined."

A spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced Thursday that as was predicted by Iran, the time given to the U.N. team was insufficient, and "therefore, the delegation could not investigate one of the most important issues stressed upon by Iran, that is the fate of those missing in action." The spokesman said while the U.N. team was in Tehran, Iran had officially pointed to the need to extend the delegation's stay — a necessity which had now been proved.

"With a positive evaluation of the action of the secretary-general, we expect that this cooperation be continued and the recommendations of the U.N. team be presented in practical and definite forms free from generalities by the United Nations Organization. We also hope that these issues (the situation of the POW's and the fate of the MIA's) should not be connected to the issue of the war, because this would change a humanitarian problem into a political one, something for which the POW's would suffer ultimately," the Foreign Ministry spokesman added.

"In view of the evidence presented, we believe that the continuation of the work of the U.N. team is necessary and that the delegation should be dispatched to both Iran and Iraq with ample time so that its investigations could be completed."

Expressing Iran's readiness to have full cooperation with the U.N. delegation, the Foreign Ministry spokesman listed the objectives of the U.N. delegation as follows:

— To carry out an exact investigation and establishing a practical framework for determining the fate of Iranian MIA's.
— To take the necessary measures to return Iranian refugees and non-military captives to Iran.
— To make Iraq give practical guarantees to refrain from torture and physical and mental mistreatment of the Iranian POW's.
— To investigate the fate of the former Iranian oil minister Mohammad Javad Tondguyan, and those of Br. Bushehri, Br. Yahyavi and their accompanying delegation.
— To investigate the treatment of Iranians wounded by the Iraqis at the fronts.
— To follow the matter of releasing all wounded and disabled POW's.
— To come up with practical proposals for improving the welfare and hygienic conditions of the POW's.

— To arrange for the freedom of the POW's to do their prayers.
— To discover secret POW camps.
— To consider practical proposals for the exchange of POW's.

It should be noted that following the release of the U.N. delegation's report about the situation of POW's in Iran and Iraq which criticised Iraq, the Iraqi regime, in order to divert public opinion, is intent on making the POW issue into a political one, and to this end, it has requested the U.N. Security Council to meet and consider the situation of the POW's.

Council Authorizes Bill on Releasing Documents

LD281412 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA — The Council of Guardians met Thursday morning and advised the Majlis that the recently-passed bill authorizing the Iranian Foreign Ministry to release certain classfied documents was in line with the Constitution and shari'a.

The session also considered a question submitted by President 'Ali Khamene'i about Article 125 of the Constitution and furnished him with the relevant answer.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,018

LD281735 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA — At least 18 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded over the past 24 hours by Iranian forces in the various fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Communique Number 2018 of the Joint Staff Command issued Thursday said.

In the border regions of Bakhtaran and Ilam Provinces, the communique said, Iranian heavy guns shelled Iraqi positions and the activities of the Iraqi patrol units were checked, while in Sumar region, heavy exchange of fire between the two sides continued.

In Mehran and Sumar regions, the engineering activities of the Iraqi forces were stopped by the fire of the Iranian combatants and along this front, more than 12 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded and six weapons emplacements and observation posts were also destroyed along with one heavy artillery piece.

At 18:30 GMT on Feb. 26, an enemy patrol unit in Sumar region was targeted by the Iranian gunners and it fled the scene in haste.

Kushk and Nahr-Anbar regions witnessed the heaviest exchange of fire in the southern fronts. The Iranian combatants succeeded in checking the activities of the enemy units in the region opposite Faqqeh and keeping the enemy's engineering activities under full observation in the region opposite Hoseyniyeh.

An Iraqi patrol unit in Chazzabeh region was spotted and forced to flee the scene under the Iranian fire. In Dehloran region, enemy forces suffered casualties and damages under the fire of Iranian guns, while in Abadan region, the combatants of the gendarmerie forces managed to kill or wound six enemy troops by their return fire.

Over the past 24 hours, the city of Abadan witnessed Iraqi shelling as a result of which two houses were damaged.

Successful Afghan Mujahidin Attacks Reported

LD281420 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 28 Feb 85

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Province, Feb. 28, IRNA — Muslim Afghan mujahidin last week in a series of attacks destroyed four tanks and killed 21 Soviet and government troops, mujahidin sources told IRNA here Thursday.

The attacks took place in Herat Province's Chashmeh-ye Ram, Chah Reg and Tahaneh regions, the sources added.

In another operation, Afghan mujahidin succeeded in killing four mercenary officers of the Kabul regime and capturing one of them in an engagement with the joint-Soviet forces of occupation and the troops of the Soviet-installed regime in Kabul. Four soldiers along with four automatic weapons defected to the ranks of mujahidin, the sources added.

5-Tanker Fleet Formed To Carry Oil From War Zone

GF010914 London KEYHAN in Persian 21 Feb 85 p 8

[Text] The Government of the Islamic Republic last week set up a new fleet of large oil tankers in order to transport its oil to Jazireh-ye Sirri, located at the northeast entrance to the Persian Gulf.

The fleet consists of five large oil tankers which have been hired by the Iran National Oil Company for 6 months. International shipping sources have reported the names and tonnage of the oil tankers attached to the fleet:

1 - Nava oil tanker, registered in Liberia, 230,000 tons
2 - Atlantic oil tanker, registered in Scandinavia, 250,000 tons
3 - Turiel oil tanker, registered in Malta, 275,000 tons
4 - Cyprus oil tanker, registered in Cyprus, 270,000 tons
5 - Gokar oil tanker, registered in Cyprus, 280,000 tons

According to reports received from marine transport sources, the Government of the Islamic Republic during the last 2 months also hired several tankers to carry its oil to areas out of the war zone. These tankers carried Iranian oil to other tankers which were anchored near Al-Fujayrah port.